

NEWS RELEASE

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor's Council Urges Hoosier Motorists to Celebrate the Season Responsibly

Indianapolis, IN - In an effort to reduce the number of deaths and injuries on Indiana roadways during the winter holidays, the Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving and the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) would like to remind all Hoosiers that "buzzed driving is drunk driving."

"We recognize that the word "buzzed" is a common term used among many drivers that we target (during these public awareness campaigns) to describe a "slight" state of intoxication, said ICJI Executive Director, Neil Moore. "Yet regardless of how one chooses to define their level of intoxication, 0.08 is the legal limit."

Last year in Indiana, a total of 253 people were killed as a result of alcohol-related traffic collisions. Last December (2007), a total of 12 people lost their lives in alcohol-related crashes across the state. During the same month, there were 3,082 collisions that occurred on Indiana roadways over the Christmas holiday period (December 21 – 26) – nine resulted in a fatality.

"In order to drive these collision and fatality numbers down, we must continue to work to change the public's perception of "drunk," which is typically viewed as being out of control. While it is easy for many people to notice when they've had way too many, we also want them to be mindful of what can happen when they get behind the wheel after having just one too many," said Moore.

Motorists are also encouraged to call 911 or their local law enforcement agency if they spot an impaired driver on the road. "Don't let your year end in an arrest – or worse. If you plan to drink, designate a sober driver before doing so," Moore added. "By exercising good judgment behind the wheel, we can undoubtedly reduce the number of lives lost on Indiana roadways this holiday season."

For more information on "buzzed driving," visit www.in.gov/cji or StopImpairedDriving.org.

The Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving serves as the public opinion catalyst for statewide action to reduce death and injury on Indiana roadways. The Council provides ongoing support to state and local traffic safety advocates.

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"Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving"

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